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U.S. Lack of Foresight in Takeover Of Iranian Embassy Is Criticized

By Betty Pettinger
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A Washington researcher on international affairs told the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs here yesterday that the capture of the American embassy in Tehran should have come as no surprise to the American government and he called it "a classic example of our country's not thinking the consequences through in advance."

The speaker was Michael A. Daniels, president of International Policy Research Corp., which does international political research for industry, agencies and organizations concerned with international affairs. His firm serves as a resource for the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Daniels said his opinions on the Iranian incident were based on personal knowledge gained in work for multinational corporations in Iran. "There was little question that the odds of something like that happening were high," he said.

He said that most European governments, more used to dealing with terrorist activity than the United States, would have done something to get the hostages released within 24 hours. "That's the only time to do something about it," he said. "Now the U. S. government is unable to act because interest is being lost by other nations in the cause. The economic boycott has been ineffective and some stronger pressures must be put on Iran," he said, but did not elaborate as to what they might be.

DANIELS' REMARKS came during the question period following a talk on international affairs in the 1980s made to some 500 clubwomen attending the federation's annual board of directors meeting at the University of Richmond.

In the prepared portion of his talk he mentioned a number of critical problems that he believes will characterize the next decade. The Soviet Union is building up its navy, seeking dominion of the seas to control natural resources and their movements, rather than for strictly military purposes. Other problems in-

clude continuing use of Cubans and East Germans as "surrogate armies" by the Soviet Union; continuing trouble in the Middle East, with the instability of Saudi Arabia the "most explosive, dangerous" situation in the world which could have an immediate effect, within 48 hours on the economics of the countries which depend heavily on her oil; stepped up pressure by Western adversaries to control oil in African nations and continuing fighting in Vietnam.

Others he also mentioned were proliferation of nuclear power in small nations; increased Cuban assistance to anti-American movements in Central and South America; increasing Mexican opposition to the United States which may include an arrangement by which Mexico would supply Cuba with oil and the Soviet Union would supply Spain in a reverse of the present arrangement; the Soviet Union's failure to comply with arms limitation agreements and a continuing military build-up by the Warsaw Pact nations who have already a significant lead over the United States and its allies.

DANIELS' RECOMMENDATION, to ordinary citizens like the clubwomen was to become better informed. The American press fails to give complete coverage to significant events abroad, he said. For example, the European press fully reported four attempts in the last year to overthrow the Saudi Arabian government while the American press gave substantial coverage to only the largest one, at Mecca. In addition, he said, the press is not always accurate.

He suggested trying to get a divergence of opinions through varied reading and programming and asked his listeners to rededicate themselves to becoming concerned and involved in world issues. Most

Americans are not, he said, but added, "If you don't you are going to be caught in a situation in the next one to 25 years of having to deal with these problems that affect you personally ... The bottom line is that it's money that is going to come out of your pocket."

HE SUGGESTED that the clubwomen consider supporting "some type of realistic immigration policy." The Asian and Cuban refugees are only the beginning, he said, and the most serious problem is the continuing influx of illegal aliens from Mexico. He predicted this would become a gigantic issue in the future.

He also suggested giving thought to "rebuilding our crippled U. S. intelligence community to protect us from legitimate foreign threats." Other ideas included supporting higher pay for the military to counteract resignations and measures to rebuild U. S. business strength worldwide.

One member of the audience had a question about limiting the ownership of American property by foreigners and Daniels said he believes this will be an issue for individual states that will act long before the federal government does. He said Canada has an agency which must approve every sale to a foreign person or group and it can look at every proposed sale from the political, sociological, cultural and economic standpoint.

In business during the session, the clubwomen voted to continue their support of Camp Easter Seal East for the next two years. The federation has raised almost \$110,000 for the proposed year-round facility for the handicapped in Caroline County.

The meeting will conclude today after a series of workshops and a final business session.

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